2nd April 1953]

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I don't have the figures here. If the hon. Member is interested, I am prepared to give the particulars later."

Reconstruction of the bridges in Payyannoor firka, North Malabar.

* 275 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the bridges at Vatavanthoor and Karimkiel in Payyannoor firka, North Malabar, have completely broken down, and if so, for how long; and

(b) the steps taken so far by the Government either to repair or to put fresh bridges at these places?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" (a) The wooden deck of the bridge at Vatavanthoor broke down a month back under the weight of unauthorised lorry traffic. The two bridges at Karimkiel are in a fair condition for light traffic.

" (b) The Malabar District Board has taken up the work of renewing the whole deck of Vatavanthoor bridge. The work of reconstructing the two bridges at Karimkiel has been sanctioned for execution under the Post-war Road Development Programme. The works will be taken up by the Malabar District Board during 1953–54 if funds become available."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Are the Government aware that when the rainy season comes the whole traffic will be paralysed with unfordable streams impeding all traffic? If so, will they expedite the construction of the bridges before June? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" It is recognized that this road is a very important road, but masonry bridges cost more than Rs. 2·3 lakhs. I think necessary steps are being taken to have masonry bridges."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" In view of the fact that bridges are rather important and in view of the fact that the Malabar District Board is notoriously bankrupt in its finances, if the expectation of the Minister that the finances of the district are likely to improve during the year 1953–54 does not come to pass, will the Government consider the question of executing the construction of bridges themselves? " 9-10 a.m.

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" These works may be included in the Five-year Plan so that both the Government and the District Board may aid their execution."

Statistics re *the amount of water flowing into the Arabian sea from Malabar.*

* 276 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Public Works